Naidupet-Tirupathi-Chittoor as National Highway

1674. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include the Naidupet-Tirupathi-Chittoor road connecting National Highway 5 and National Highway No. 4 as National Highway in the Seventh Five Yean Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Owing to limitation of resources for new National Highways during the 7th Five Year Plan, it is not possible at present to make new additions in the N.Hs. system in Andhra Pradesh.

Electrification of Krishna canal-Guntur-Tenali Circular Railway Line

1675. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the electrification between Krishna Canal-Guntur-Tenali circular railway line in Andhra Pradesh has been started; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and the amount earmarked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project involves electrification of about 52 route Kms. of the sections at a cost of Rs. 8.59 crores. Out of this an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores has been proposed for 1987-88.

Conversion of Guntur-Dronachalam into broad gauge line

1676. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Guntur-Dronachalam metre gauge line to broad gauge in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Survey for gauge conversion of Dronachalam-Guntur MG Line to BG has been taken up to determine its operational and financial implications.

Attendants of retired railway employees to travel with them

1677. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit the attendants of retired railway employees travelling on first class privilege complimentary pass in the first class to travel with them in case of ill health of such persons;

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to permit wife/daughter to travel as an attendant in place of a servant in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. A retired railway employee who is eligible for first class complimentary passes is permitted to take an attendant with him/her but the attendent is eligible to travel only in Second Class.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the existing facilities are considered reasonable, no liberalisation is envisaged.

(d) No, Sir. Wife as well as unmarried daughter(s) are already permitted to travel in the entitled class, on post-retirement passes issued to retired railway employees.

Complimentary rail pass for the dependents of retired railway employees

1678. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify the existing rail pass rules in respect of retired railway employees and make the dependent parents of such pensioners eligible for complimentary passes;

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No modification to the existing pass rules is envisaged.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the existing pass facilities to retired Railway employees are considered reasonable, no liberalisation in this regard is contemplated.

Rail passes to retired Class III and IV railway employees

1679. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of rail passes given to retired class IV and class III employees of railways every year;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of passes issued to retired class IV employees and bring them at par with class III employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) One set of pass every alternate year is given to Group 'D' (Class IV) employees who have retired with 25 years service. Group 'C' (Class III) employees are given one set if they have retired with 20 years of service or more and 2 sets if they have retired with 25 years service or more.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No liberalisation of pass facilities to retired employees is envisaged at present, in this regard.

Cola soft drinks

†1680. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the analysis of scientific data on harmful effects of Cola soft drinks as reported in Hindustan Times of 1st February, 1987; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government propose to reconsider any Projects with overseas firms for setting up of soft drinks and other fast foods, including Health foods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes. Scientific studies conducted on the possible effects of soft drinks have revealed that consumption of soft drinks conforming to prescribed standards under PFA Rules, 1955 are unlikely to cause any harmful effect.

(b) As per the information received from Ministry of Industry the Government may reconsider proposals for foreign collaboration ties up, if they revised proposals are in accordance with the prevailing policy of the Government and in overall public interest.

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†Previously Unstarred Question 1312, transferred from the 9th March, 1987.